(a) providing a nucleic acid analyzer containing a first sample, wherein the first sample comprises a first nucleic acid that could contaminate a PCR reaction to be performed on a second sample;

D1

(b) contacting a first electrically conductive surface and a second electrically conductive surface to a portion of the first sample;

(c) applying a voltage between the first electrically conductive surface and the second electrically conductive surface to reduce the ability of the first nucleic acid of the first sample to be amplified or detected in a PCR reaction process involving the second sample.

4. (Twice Amended) A method of reducing contamination in a reaction vessel used for PCR, the method comprising the steps of:

D2

(a) providing a reaction vessel containing a first sample, wherein the first sample contains a nucleic acid that could contaminate a PCR reaction to be performed on a second sample;

(b) locating a first electrode and a second electrode adjacent to the nucleic acid that could contaminate the PCR reaction, if present;

(c) applying a voltage between the first electrode and the second electrode; and

(d) adjusting the voltage to reduce an ability of the contaminating nucleic acid to be amplified or detected in a PCR reaction.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising the following steps after step (a) and before step (b):

D3

(a1) contacting the first sample with a binding member so as to form two portions of the first sample consisting of

(i) an analytical portion comprising a first nucleic acid complex, wherein the first nucleic acid complex comprises a bond between a portion of the first nucleic acid and the

binding member, and

(ii) and a waste portion, wherein the waste portion is the portion of the first sample that is not bound to the binding member,

(a2) separating the waste portion of the first sample from the analytical portion, and

(a3) aspirating the waste portion of the first sample into the electrically conductive pipettor,

wherein in step (b) the portion of the first sample contacted by the first electrically conductive surface and the second electrically conductive surface is the waste portion of the first sample, and

wherein the reduction in the ability of the first nucleic acid to be amplified or detected in a PCR reaction process is effected by fragmenting the first nucleic acid in the waste portion of the first sample.

14. (Amended) A method of amplifying a nucleic acid, the method comprising:

(a) providing a nucleic acid in a first liquid medium,

(b) binding the nucleic acid to a solid support to form a bound nucleic acid,

(c) substantially separating the bound nucleic acid from the first liquid medium,

(d) mixing the bound nucleic acid with a second liquid medium,

(e) positioning a portion of the bound nucleic acid and second liquid medium mixture between two electrodes,

(f) applying a voltage between the electrodes sufficient to cause a current to flow through the second liquid medium, such that

(g) the nucleic acid is eluted from the particle,

(h) adding amplification reagents to the eluted nucleic acid in the second liquid medium sufficient to amplify the nucleic acid thereby forming an amplification mixture, and

(i) maintaining the amplification mixture under suitable conditions to amplify the nucleic